

REQUESTING THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO FURNISH THE TEXT OF
ALL COMMUNICATIONS PERTAINING TO THE FORTHCOMING VIET-
NAMESE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

SEPTEMBER 27, 1971.—Referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed

Mr. MORGAN, from the Committee on Foreign Affairs,
submitted the following

ADVERSE REPORT

[To accompany H. Res. 595]

The Committee on Foreign Affairs, to whom was referred the resolution (H. Res. 595) requesting the Secretary of State to furnish the text of all communications pertaining to the forthcoming Vietnamese presidential election, having considered the same, report unfavorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the resolution do not pass.

The Committee on Foreign Affairs met on September 23, 1971, to consider the resolution, House Resolution 595, directing the Secretary of State to furnish to the House the text of all communications pertaining to the forthcoming Vietnam presidential election between the Department of State and the U.S. Embassy in Saigon and between the U.S. Embassy in Saigon and Messrs. Thieu, Ky, and Minh since January 1, 1971, and ordered it unfavorably reported by a vote of 17 ayes to 3 noes.

This recommendation of the committee is based on a letter received from the Department of State, which points out the highly confidential nature of the communications requested and states the willingness of the Department to provide appropriate briefings on the forthcoming presidential election to interested Members or committees of Congress.

The full text of the letter from the Department of State follows:

September 22, 1971.

HON. THOMAS E. MORGAN,
*Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Secretary of State has asked that I reply to your letter of September 15, 1971, requesting comments on House Resolution 595. The resolution would direct the Secretary of State

to furnish the House of Representatives "with the complete text of all communications pertaining to the forthcoming Vietnamese presidential election between the Department of State and the U.S. Embassy in Saigon and between the U.S. Embassy in Saigon and Messrs. Thieu, Ky, and Minh since January 1, 1971."

The Department of State strongly recommends against passage of the resolution under consideration by the committee. Compliance with the request embodied in the resolution would disclose confidential communications of the executive branch including policy instructions to our Ambassador in Saigon. We also believe that a resolution of inquiry is an inappropriate means of requesting information from the executive branch regarding the forthcoming Vietnamese presidential election. On the other hand, the Department would be pleased to provide briefings of interested Members or committees of Congress on this subject as required.

I hope that these comments will be of assistance to your committee in considering the resolution in question.

Sincerely,

DAVID M. ABSHIRE,
Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations.

The Committee on Foreign Affairs, to whom was referred the resolution (H. Res. 355) requesting the Secretary of State to furnish the text of all communications pertaining to the forthcoming Vietnamese presidential election, having considered the same, report unfavorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the resolution do not pass.

The Committee on Foreign Affairs met on September 22, 1971, to consider the resolution. House Resolution 355, during the Secretary of State to furnish to the House the text of all communications pertaining to the forthcoming Vietnamese presidential election between the Department of State and the U.S. Embassy in Saigon and between the U.S. Embassy in Saigon and Messrs. Thieu, Ky, and Minh since January 1, 1971, and ordered it unfavorably reported by a vote of 17 yeas to 3 nays.

This recommendation of the committee is based on a letter received from the Department of State which points out the highly confidential nature of the communications requested and states the willingness of the Department to provide appropriate briefings on the forthcoming presidential election to interested Members or committees of Congress. The full text of the letter from the Department of State follows:

September 22, 1971
Honorable E. M. Moore
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs
House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.
Dear Mr. Chairman: The Secretary of State has received your letter of September 15, 1971, requesting comments on House Resolution 355. The resolution would direct the Secretary of State



